MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2018/2019

PEN 0055 – ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

(All Groups)

07 MARCH 2019
9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **eight** pages.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A and B.**
3. Write all your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [30 MARKS]

Text 1 (15 marks)
Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

A Cursed Land

1 Southern Madagascar is a land awash with superstitions of witches, reincarnation and haunted bridges, and the behaviour of the people is mostly guided by superstitions practised everywhere in this southern region. Besides the **widespread** belief in superstitions, this region is known for its extreme climate. Large areas in Madagascar's southern part are dry and prone to drought, in contrast to the verdant hills of northern and central Madagascar. This has left southern Madagascar wrestling with a chronic lack of food. The destructive insects that gobble up crops and ravage landscapes have worsened the hardship. Food shortage aside, this region is also burdened by criminal activities. Crimes, particularly highway robberies, have grown so bad that long stretches of national highways are no-go zones for even law enforcers.

2 Thriving better than other towns in this desperately dry southern part is Ilakaka, a small town in the southwest of Madagascar. Until 1998, Ilakaka was home to a handful of houses and a few dozen residents, but the year of 1998 marked a turning point for Ilakaka: the sapphire boom. Ilakaka rose to fame when sapphires, which are blue gemstones, were found. Virtually overnight, the huge gemstone deposits turned this small Madagascan village into a bustling international mining heaven and the sapphire capital of the world, supplying nearly 50 per cent of all the sapphires in the world.

3 The search for the gemstones in Ilakaka caused this once sleepy hamlet to swell to tens of thousands of residents, and it attracted waves of migration to the fringes of its vast forests. Tom Cushman, an American gem dealer who set foot on Madagascar in 1991, was one of the first to open a shop in Ilakaka. "When I first started to own a shop, there were only about five of us trading sapphires, and there was no town," Cushman recalls. However, according to Cushman, when the sapphire trade started to boom in the late 1990s, gem dealers tried to spend at least thousands of dollars a day buying the much admired stones from a vast selection. The sapphire trade that was greatly profitable changed the life in a country where more than 90 per cent of the population lived on less than $2 a day. The trade became more flourished when the Thais and Sri Lankans, masters of the sapphire trade, arrived, and as much as $2 million a week was changing hands.

4 Sadly, the town leaves a gloomy look today. Inside the shops along a mile-long stretch of Route 7, worried gem dealers sit at their desks, ruminating on the poor state of business and their future. Every day, they wait for a miner or middleman to bring prized gemstones to their shops. Sometimes, almost nothing worth touching passes through their doors for a few months. All this paints a sharp contrast to the lively picture of Ilakaka in the late 1990s. Big precious sapphires are now few when the reserves of sapphires have dried up, and miners must walk miles in search of untapped reserves. This is an apparent indicator that gem dealers in Ilakaka have fallen on hard times. Although Ilakaka has enjoyed a famous name as a sapphire town which most Malagasy towns can only envy, the poor market has sent many foreign investors packing for the up-and-coming gem fields in Mozambique and Tanzania, the neighbouring countries.

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5 Despite Madagascar's mineral wealth, ranging from gemstones to iron, foreign investment in the mining sector has been withdrawn at a dramatic rate. Ilakaka's problems with the government began with President Didier Ratsiraka who banned legal exports of sapphires in the early years of the boom. His successor, President Ravalomanana, initially eased restrictions, but banned all gemstone exports in 2008. The next president, Rajoelina, lifted the ban in 2010, but until today, Ilakaka looks unlikely to enjoy a recovery. The nation's sapphire industry worth $30 million a year has shrivelled to $300,000. Much of foreign investment has disappeared, and poverty has skyrocketed.

6 In fact, few would dispute that the Ilakaka sapphire boom has benefited the people. About half a million people make a living from small-scale mining and earn four to five times what they would make from farming. However, this economic boom has never developed Ilakaka further than a town where poor families dwell in tiny wooden houses. Some families still live in a one-room, one-mattress hut resembling a prison cell. Construction crew seems busy replacing wood shacks with concrete buildings in the town centre, but wealthy life is not the norm.

7 It has been a decade since the sapphire discovery in Ilakaka, but the mining of gemstones has never ceased. Each morning, tens of thousands of miners who are equipped with a spade and a candle head out into the ancient river valleys with a belief that it may be their day. Cushman, who now heads a consultancy for foreign investors in the capital city of Antananarivo, finds hope in Ilakaka. He says, "Even though most families in Ilakaka have never struck rich, they continue to toil for years in the sapphire quarries. The people here have strong drive, and they look positively to the future. When everyone else expects things to get worse, the people in Ilakaka think they are going to get better, and they will."

Adapted from Ross, A. (2014, February 14). *The cursed land.* Retrieved from https://bit.ly/2yLTo0v

Question 1: Contextual Clues (5 marks)
Instructions: *Provide a word from the reading passage for each definition below.*

Example:	**existing in many places**	**(paragraph 1)**	**word: widespread**
a)	thickly covered with green plants	(paragraph 1)	
b)	a very small village	(paragraph 3)	
c)	thinking deeply about something	(paragraph 4)	
d)	became reduced or smaller	(paragraph 5)	
e)	determination to achieve something	(paragraph 7)	

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Question 2 : Comprehension Questions (10 marks)
Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

a. List two factors that cause food shortage in the south of Madagascar. (1 mark)

b. i. What was the significant change that took place in Ilakaka in 1998? (1 mark)
ii. How did the significant change make Ilakaka famous globally? (1 mark)

c. Provide two examples to show that the sapphire trade in Ilakaka was prosperous in the late 1990s. (2 marks)

d. What does *a sharp contrast to the lively picture of Ilakaka in the late 1990s* (lines 36 - 37) refer to? (1 mark)

e. Why do gem dealers find it difficult to obtain valuable sapphires in Ilakaka today? (1 mark)

f. What are the reasons for the withdrawal of foreign investment from Ilakaka's sapphire industry? (2 marks)

g. State the main idea of paragraph 6. (1 mark)

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Text 2 (15 marks)
Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

From Hindu Temple to Hollywood Hairdo

1 In a hall packed with thousands of Indian women and girls, hundreds of razors are at work, scraping rapidly. Thick, **dark** clumps of hair flop down into baskets at their side. Just seconds later, they are completely bald with gleaming scalps. This is where thousands of devotees undergo a hair shaving or tonsuring ritual to offer their hair as a gift to their god at Venkateswara Temple which is situated in the town of Tirumala in Andhra Pradesh, India. Nevertheless, behind this hair shaving ritual, there is a tale of exploitation in which hair traders immorally take advantage of women in India. Shockingly, this is a **secret** unknown to many. The women, particularly from rural areas, have their heads shaved, and their valuable hair is then used to support a multi-million-dollar fashion industry in the West, as a source of Hollywood celebrities' hair extensions or wigs.

2 The shaving ceremony and hair trade are not limited to this one temple, but Venkateswara Temple attracts tens of thousands of pilgrims in a single day and is the dominant temple in the trade. There are 18 shaving halls; all of them are so vast that women can wait in the queue for five hours. About 600 barbers sit in lines, deftly tying up the hair of women into ponytails for tonsuring. All this hair, known as temple hair, has never been chemically treated or subjected to anything other than coconut oil and herbal soap; thus, in the hair trade, merchants would offer to purchase temple hair without much bargain. Sometimes, temple hair of good quality is bought by these traders at a high price of $800 per kilogramme. It is widely known that temple hair is naturally silkier because most rural women who donate their hair have never used artificial dyes or colours.

3 In earlier times, the hair was thrown away into the river. Today, it is sold to traders through online auctions that fetch the temple between $3 to $6 million every year. Shamefully, the temple makes lots of money from the piles of thick black locks, a much prized personal asset to most women. In hundreds of British and American salons, temple hair has already been sold in the form of real hair extensions, costing up to £3,000 a time. Obviously, the appeal of this hair is that it both looks and feels better than the synthetic additions.

4 In India, rural women strongly think and **believe** that they should make their way to the temple once in their lifetime and offer their hair for wishes granted. However, what is greatly disturbing is that the riches of hair traders are built on their religious sacrifice. For example, Great Lengths International, an international hair trader, supplies hair extensions to 60 different countries and over 40,000 salons. Philip Sharp, the managing director, says, "It is fair to say that temple hair has become a commodity as precious as gold or diamond. Some top salons order up to £100,000 worth of hair a year, and celebrities such as Jennifer Lopez, Tyra Banks, Paris Hilton, and Beyoncé are among our regular customers."

5 Another fact is that many rural women in India are not aware that their hair is turned into expensive wigs and hair extensions miles away for rich, high-fashion and **privileged** buyers in Hollywood. Likewise, very few celebrities who wear hair extensions or wigs have given more than a fleeting thought to the origin of the hair. Jamelia, a pop star, was initially delighted at her look with hair extensions.

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She was then brought by a documentary team to India to find the source of her hair, and when she was watching the head of a small child being shaved, she was reduced to tears. This incident reminds celebrities seeking hair extensions that it is their moral duty to know whether their new hair has been obtained ethically.

6 Despite criticism, the temples involved defend their decision to sell donated hair and **argue** that the money collected is channelled directly back into the local community to fund medical aid, educational systems and other crucial infrastructure projects. For hair traders, the situation is seen as a win-win. They claim that while the Indian women are able to make a sacrifice to their gods, the temples make money which is used to support pilgrimage and community programmes. On the other hand, hair traders themselves have good products to work with happy customers. Sounding ideal, all these claims are far from being believable, and the entire operation of hair trade seems highly unethical.

7 Behind the rows of neatly packaged hair is the dark side of the hair trade. Most hair comes from countries where women are poor enough to consider selling a treasured asset. Apart from India, unscrupulous hair traders also tour villages in China and eastern Europe to coax poor women to part with their hair for a small payment. In the hair trade, the hair of impoverished women is used to beautify those who are wealthy. Hence, hair trade is a world where hair traders take advantage of those who are disadvantaged.

8 Although the female pilgrims might not be bothered about what happens to their hair after offering it to their gods, a trade that thrives on their act of religious devotion is morally unacceptable. Similarly, although the temples do not **intimidate** the women into parting with their hair against their will, it is disgraceful to trade a religious sacrifice for monetary gain. Indeed, for the sake of morality, temple hair providers and traders must unquestionably put a halt to this exploitation.

Adapted from Smellie, A. (2012, June 2). *From Hindu temple to Hollywood hairdo.* Retrieved from https://dailym.ai/2P5VWk4

Question 1: Affixes (5 marks)

Instructions: *Fill in the blank in each question below with an appropriate word by adding a suitable prefix or suffix or by adding both prefix and suffix to the word provided.*

Example:

dark (line 2)

The city was engulfed by **darkness** when a power cut occurred last night.

a. **secret** (line 8)

Most underground syndicates operate illegally, and their meetings are often conducted in the greatest _____.

b. **believe** (line 30)

With accurate facts and convincing explanations, there was no good reason to _____ him.

c. **privileged** (line 41)

Statistically, needy teenagers from _____ families have a higher tendency to become involved in crime.

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d. **argue** (line 49)
Without any confirmed scientific theory, it is _____ that there could be other universes besides our own.

e. **intimidate** (line 66)
In a fair election, all voters must be allowed to freely cast their votes without pressure or _____ .

Question 2 : Critical Reading (10 marks)
Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

a. State the issue raised in the article. (1 mark)

b. List two specific groups of people to whom the writer intends to convey her message. (1 mark)

c. What is the general tone of the writer? (1 mark)

d. State the writer's overall purpose of writing the article. (1 mark)

e. *All this hair, known as temple hair, has never been chemically treated or subjected to anything other than coconut oil and herbal soap; thus, in the hair trade, merchants would offer to purchase temple hair without much bargain.* (lines 16 - 19)

i. What does the writer infer in the above extract? (1 mark)
ii. Provide a statement from paragraph 2 to support the inference. (1 mark)

f. State if the sentences below are a fact or an opinion. Justify your answer.
(i) *Today, it is sold to traders through online auctions that fetch the temple between $3 to $6 million every year.* (lines 23-25)
(ii) *Shamefully, the temple makes lots of money from the piles of thick black locks, a much prized personal asset to most women.* (lines 25-26) (1 mark)

(1 mark)

g. i. What is the bias demonstrated by the writer in paragraph 7?
ii. Give two examples from the language used in paragraph 7 to show such bias. (1 mark)

(1 mark)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

Question 1 (10 marks)
Instructions: *The following extract contains 10 errors in fragment, run-on, faulty parallelism and faulty modifier. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example.*

Example: No	Line	Error	Correction
0	2	...Hyderabad. Lie...	...Hyderabad, lie...

The Legend of Princess Naishu

In a dimly lit room on the first floor of the Telangana State Museum at Nampally in **Hyderabad. Lie** the mummified remains of Princess Naishu, one of six Egyptian mummies in India, and it is the only one in south India. The left side of the room is guarded by the jackal-headed Anubis, who is the tomb protector and the patron of mummification, while the right side of the room is guarded by Hathor, who is an Egyptian goddess of cosmic regeneration.

A single caretaker stands guard faithfully outside the room, and a CCTV camera is set on the corridor a few visitors pass by, only giving the mummy a cursory glance, before moving ahead to explore the rest of the museum. Filled with the text on the process of mummification, the caretaker compassionately guarded the room. There are neither tour guides nor experts who study artifacts to help people comprehend the historical value that lies in the neglected room.

In 2015, the mummy showed signs of decaying, decomposing and it started to disintegrate. It was reported that the outer crust around the face, shoulders and the toe had fragmented and then exposed the inner wrappings of the Mummy. Following months of rotting, the Department of State Archaeology and Museums stepped in, the head conservator at Prince of Wales museum, Anupam Shah, was roped in for the restoration project. Throughout March and April 2016, seven experts including Anupam worked on restoring the mummy. The researchers even performed a CT scan and X-Ray of the body. Besides performing a number of other tests to determine the extent of damage.

Speaking about the restoration, Anupam told BBC reporters, "The risky process of moving the mummy, which was fragile, carried out in a highly meticulous manner. We had to be careful because the cloth had become very brittle. We assessed that we could restore the bandage without causing any damage by retying the cartilage in around 10 days to its near-original state. Subsequently, we had to take her to a diagnostic centre to X-ray and CT-scan the cartilage. We had to take her with great care and security, and we brought her back before the sun became too strong". Monitoring the scans, an unusual observation of Naishu's brain, which was intact, was made by the team. The team also detected the mummy's spine dislocation and skull damage, while the rest of her bones were intact.

Adapted from Nitin, B. (2017, January 11). *The legend of Princess Naishu: An Egyptian mummy in Hyderabad in dire need of attention.* Retrieved from https://bit.ly/2Hb30bP

Continued...

Question 2 (10 marks)

Instructions: *The following extract contains 10 errors in fragment, run-on, faulty parallelism and faulty modifier. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example.*

Example: No	Line	Error	Correction
0	1	...that. Speaking...	...that speaking...

Why Learn a Foreign Language?

Physiological studies have found **that. Speaking** two or more languages is a great asset to the cognitive process. The brains of people who are bilingual operate differently from single language speakers' brains, and these differences offer several mental benefits.

Learning a foreign language for the first time, obstacles might force one to give up on learning. However, one should be told that there are several cognitive advantages of learning a foreign language. Many of these attributes are apparent. Only in people who speak multiple languages regularly. However, people who begin language study in their adult lives can still achieve the same levels of fluency as a young learner and still reap the same mental benefits.

Speaking a foreign language by using it to recognise, negotiate meaning, and communicate in different language systems, improves the functionality of one's brain. This skill boosts an individual's ability to negotiate meaning in other problem-solving tasks as well. It is said that bilingual students tend to score better in standardised tests than their monolingual peers who study foreign languages, particularly in the categories of maths, reading, and vocabulary.

Multitasking skills is another advantage of learning a foreign language multilingual people, especially children, are skilled at switching between two systems of speech, writing, and structure. According to a study from the Pennsylvania State University, this "juggling" a skill that makes them good multitaskers because they can easily switch between different structures.

In one study, while doing separate and distracting tasks at the same time, a driving simulator was used by the participants. The research found that people who spoke more than one language made fewer errors in their driving. Several studies have also been conducted on this topic, the results are consistent. The studies considered factors such as education level, income level, gender, and physical health.

Finally, a study from Spain's University of Pompeu Fabra revealed that since multilingual people are better at observing their surroundings. They are more adept at focusing on relevant information and editing out the irrelevant. Hence, they are better at spotting misleading information and verify actual details.

Adapted from Merritt, A (2013, June 19). *Why learn a foreign language? Benefits of bilingualism.* Retrieved from https://bit.ly/2GqVfgQ

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